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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 25, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 19 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 13.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 345.6 billion ton-miles, 13.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 19 totaled 410,693, 12.8 percent above 1983, and 4.3 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 22.7 percent in the East, 11.6 percent in the South and 7.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 13 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases. Coal loadings were up 20,897 cars (20.8 percent), grain loadings posted a gain of 4,548 cars (23.7 percent), and chemicals and allied products were up 4,458 cars (19.9 percent). Sixteen of the 21 groups increased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 12 totaled 52,706 cars, up 19.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 89,716 trailers and/or containers, 16.6 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 956,838 cars, 18.7 percent higher than last year, and 1,657,301 trailers and/or containers, up 19.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/19/84:

	Loadings in Week ended May 19, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,764	I	4,548	23.7	I	282	1.2
Other farm products	3,905	I	355	10.0	I	5	0.1
Metallic ores	20,232	D	484	2.3	I	1,559	7.7
Coal	121,390	I	20,897	20.8	I	12,288	10.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,062	I	2,068	18.8	I	358	2.7
Nonmetallic minerals	12,526	I	1,611	14.8	I	1,373	11.0
Grain mill products	10,746	D	608	5.4	I	103	1.0
Food and kindred products	10,583	D	1,157	9.9	I	133	1.3
Primary forest products	14,711	I	245	1.7	I	704	4.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,207	D	661	8.4	I	23	0.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,328	D	1,041	6.8	D	246	1.7
Chemicals and allied products	26,892	I	4,458	19.9	I	1,253	4.7
Petroleum products	4,780	D	9	0.2	I	122	2.6
Stone, clay and glass products	12,160	I	1,331	12.3	I	16	0.1
Coke	5,676	I	814	16.7	I	74	1.3
Metals and products	10,255	I	2,002	24.3	D	102	1.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,337	I	2,728	14.7	I	171	0.8
Waste and scrap materials	10,412	I	1,674	19.2	I	139	1.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,118	D	1,471	17.1	D	262	3.7
All other carloads	59,367	I	9,410	18.8	D	867	1.5
LCL traffic	242	D	29	10.7	D	6	2.5
Total Cars Loaded	410,693	I	46,681	12.8	I	17,120	4.3
Corresponding week of 1983	364,012						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	7,854,363	6,980,688	I 12.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
19 weeks ended May 12	327.8	288.8	I 13.5
Week ended May 19	17.8	15.7	I 13.0
20 weeks cumulative	345.6	304.6	I 13.5

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